

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
PANAMA BUREAU  
DRAWER 927  
APO MIAMI 34004

5 April 1985  
MPA-5016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — March 1985

I. GENERAL

From the focus of expanding coverage in the bureau's primary area of responsibility, ROSET activities during the month proved very valuable. Satellite-carried television programming from Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia was cruised out and sampled. Of the three Mexican television stations observable, two merit coverage and offer valuable, never-before-available coverage of an important target. Venezuela and Colombia both transmit one television station via satellite and our initial observations indicate that the more productive television coverage may soon supplant some of our present shortwave sources for those countries.

The signals analysis section also identified and sampled Spanish transmissions of Moscow TASS and NOVOSTI, Hamburg DPA and Beijing XINHUA. Three Peruvian television stations were identified and await sampling and Moscow television's important foreign affairs program "Studio 9" was observed on the 14 West Gorizont at the same time the program is seen in Moscow. After some initial shifting of location, Brasilsat appears fixed in orbit at 65 West and some initial signals testing was observed. Brasilsat is reported to become fully operational by late May or early June.

A two-day visit to the bureau by ADDS&T James Hirsch and DD/FBIS  was filled with briefings on bureau operations, ROSET equipment and activities; meetings with Everett E. Briggs, U.S. Ambassador to Panama, and other senior embassy officers; and discussions on current headquarters activities with the bureau's U.S. staff.

During the month the bureau provided D/FBIS with professional quality color photographs and 35 mm slides of the ROSET-related equipment. The photos were for a proposed article in a special publication.

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## II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

As the month opened, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega met U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Montevideo, Uruguay, during visits by the two men for the inauguration of President Julio Sanguinetti. After his return to Managua, on 4 March Ortega announced a new peace initiative with three main points; a moratorium on the acquisition of new weapons; the sending home of Cuban military advisers; and a solution to the Contadora impasse, suggesting that Nicaragua would release the young draft dodger who was arrested after seeking political asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy. The young man, Urbina Lara, was in fact released and allowed to travel to Colombia soon after Ortega's announcement. The United States, however, was quick to reject the Ortega initiative saying that it had little substance.

For a few days bureau interest focused on Nicaraguan and Cuban reaction to the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko and the election of Mikhail Gorbachev as CPSU general secretary. Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega and Cuba's Vice President Raul Castro traveled to Moscow for Chernenko's funeral where they met individually with new Soviet leader Gorbachev.

On 12 March, Venezuelan President Luisinchi's annual address to the Venezuelan National Congress was monitored and processed from Venezuelan television — the first scheduled major event to be covered by the bureau from regular satellite television transmission. Processing of the Luisinchi speech was expedited by a very good reception of Caracas television as opposed to our regular shortwave sources which are often poorly heard.

On 25 March the bureau began regular experimental coverage of identified ROSET sources of interest. With a schedule of Mexican, Venezuelan, and Colombian television newscasts and the appropriate satellite information, the bureau — using its one ROSET antenna dedicated for operational coverage — began alternately covering those television sources and the numerous and highly productive press agencies carried on the 34 West Intelsat. These include three Havana PRELA circuits, Managua ANN, Moscow TASS and NOVOSTI, San Salvador SALPRESS and NOTISAL, and the clandestine Radio Venceremos Press Service. Coverage of the satellite television transmissions was immediately productive as the bureau covered an important visit to Mexico by Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin from Mexican television.

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A government crisis in Honduras that came to a head on 28 March resulted in three days of 24-hour operation and an extremely heavy processing load. Over the objections of President Roberto Suazo Cordova, the Honduran legislature voted to remove five Supreme Court justices for alleged corruption. The president called the legislators' action a virtual coup and put the armed forces on alert. After the legislature swore in the new justices, government prosecutors filed treason charges against the five men and arrested Ramon Valladares Soto, who was named by the legislature to head the newly reconstructed court.

B. Communications

For the second time in the past two months, our local AUTODIN relay, PAR, delayed many of the bureau's time-sensitive high precedence items from four to nine hours without notifying bureau communicators which would have alerted us to use our alternate communication route. Despite verbal assurances by the PAR NCOIC that the incident would not be repeated, similar delays were documented during the Honduran government crisis. The bureau has advised the commanding officer of the USAISC Panama of PAR's poor performance that seriously jeopardizes the bureau's mission.

C. Technical

The bureau received and installed three Sony CFC-100 color subcarrier frequency converters. These color converters allow us to videorecord color signals of satellite television transmitted in NTSC format on the standard ROSET Sony VO-5630 videotape recorders. In addition, PAL-N and PAL-M television systems can also be recorded in color with these converters. Since all of our Latin American satellite television transmissions are in either NTSC, PAL-N or PAL-M systems, without these color converters all of our videorecording would have been in black and white.

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## III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

STAT We have made the final selection of candidates to fill vacant  
 foreign national positions. Former monitor supervisor [redacted]  
 officially rejoined the bureau on 31 March as a monitor. Pre-employment  
 processing has begun or soon will begin for four other Spanish monitors,

STAT [redacted]  
 SIAI [redacted] cruising monitor [redacted] associate editor  
 STAT [redacted] communications operator [redacted] and radio  
 STAT technician (boardman) [redacted] With the filling of these  
 positions we will be at the authorized non-staff T/O of 47 for FY 1985.

STAT The following employees received PSIs during March: Monitor  
 Supervisor [redacted] from FBN-11/6 to FBN-11/7 and Senior Monitor  
 STAT [redacted] from FBN-10/3 to FBN-10/4 effective 3 March 1985; Radio  
 STAT Technician [redacted] from 3/1 to FBN-3/2 effective 17 March 1985.

STAT Editor [redacted] departed Panama 29 March upon  
 completion of a three-month editorial training.

STAT Editor [redacted] arrived Panama 11 March to begin her  
 three-month editorial training.

B. Building and Grounds

We received on 14 March a 50-ton Carrier Package Chiller,  
 Serial No. YKPM-228270, Model LCHA-55-25D, to be placed on the already  
 completed concrete base. The initial inspection of the chiller DEH  
 delivered to us revealed the following damage:

- The two front doors are bent out of shape.
- The back channel and cover are bent out of shape.
- The insulation of the chiller is damaged.
- The tube for the liquid and the expansion valve are twisted out of shape.

STAT Since the unit was received with the above damage, we consider  
 that all needed repair and flaws in performance caused by it should be  
 repaired free of charge under the warranty. We have discussed these  
 STAT matters with [redacted] Chief of the DEH Estimates Branch, and with  
 STAT [redacted] Deputy Chief of DEH's air conditioner maintenance  
 section.

New security clocks have been installed on the three entrances  
 to the bureau, the front and back doors and the door to the bureau chief's  
 office. The security guards will be checking these clocks every two hours  
 between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

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## IV. VISITS

A. To the Bureau:

STAT James Hirsch, ADDS&T, and [ ] DD/FBIS, visited on 19 and 20 March for briefings and inspection of bureau's ROSET-related operations.

STAT [ ] deputy chief of FBIS P&TB, and [ ] personnel officer in FBIS Administrative Staff, visited on TDY from 13 to 16 March.

STAT [ ]  
 STAT Embassy in San Salvador, visited the bureau briefly during the month while he was in Panama on other business. In the past, [ ] has been helpful to us in tracking down problems related to our remote operation in San Salvador.

B. From the Bureau:

STAT ROSET engineer Ed Baker attended a half day conference at Fort Amador sponsored by the local chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association on 6 March. A guest speaker from the Harris Corporation demonstrated new technology in tactical HF communications equipment, primarily designed for military applications.

STAT The bureau chief and [ ] the bureau's chief technician, traveled to Guatemala City, Tegucigalpa, and Managua for a semi-annual inspection tour of the bureau's remote operation. Bureau  
 STAT chief monitor [ ] participated in the Honduras and Nicaragua legs of the inspection tour for his first on-site view of the remote operation. The planned visit to San Salvador was omitted at the request of the local embassy which cited a period of increased tension prior to the 31 March elections.

STAT Deputy chief [ ] met with Lieutenant Colonel Ellis G. Reeder, executive officer of the U.S. Army's Task Force Bayonet on Fort Clayton on 18 March. Col. Reeder was provided an estimate by the bureau antenna contractor to replace the HF antenna tower destroyed on 28 February by an Armored Personnel Carrier belonging to Task Force Bayonet.

STAT [ ]  
 Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:  
 Production Report

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985

**I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:**

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	557,170
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	20,410
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,527

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u></b> (minutes or issues per week)	9,730 min	43,380 min	202.23 issues

**III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:**  
(publishable words per month)**ARGENTINA**

Buenos Aires LATIN in  
Spanish

980

**AUSTRIA**

Vienna OPECNA in  
Spanish

0

**COLOMBIA**

Bogota Domestic Service in  
Spanish

2,700

Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in  
Spanish

5,960

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in  
Spanish

5,720

Bogota Radio Sutatenza in  
Spanish

1,010

\*Bogota Television Service in  
Spanish

1,510

Bogota EL TIEMPO in  
Spanish

7,520

Bogota EL SIGLO in  
Spanish

7,450

**COSTA RICA**

San Jose Radio Reloj in  
Spanish

10,840

San Jose Radio Impacto in  
Spanish

14,180

\*San Jose PRELA in  
Spanish

430

San Jose LA NACION in  
Spanish

3,540

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in  
Spanish

780

San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in  
Spanish

1,340

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in  
Spanish

3,280

San Jose LIBERTAD in  
Spanish

1,480

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			1,440
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Spanish	42,090		
Havana International Service in Quechua	1,030		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	8,180		
Havana PRELA in English		36,710	
*Havana PRELA in Spanish		27,380	
(CLANDESTINES)			
Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	13,080		
Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	13,450		
Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	1,510		
ECUADOR			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	8,230		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	1,350		
Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish	410		
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	1,210		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	2,410		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	8,270		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	3,280		
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			2,260
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			6,440
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			4,010
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			110
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTEE in English			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>FRANCE</b>			
Paris AFP in			
English		3,590	
Paris AFP in			
Spanish		31,020	
<b>GERMANY</b>			
Hamburg DPA in			
Spanish		4,990	
*East Berlin ADN to ANN Managua in			
Spanish		140	
<b>GUATEMALA</b>			
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in			
Spanish	4,950		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in			
Spanish	2,010		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in			
Spanish	250		
Guatemala City Super Radio in			
Spanish	260		
Guatemala Domestic Service in			
Spanish	840		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in			
Spanish			720
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in			
Spanish			2,440
<b>HONDURAS</b>			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in			
Spanish	9,950		
Tegucigalpa Vox de Honduras Network in			
Spanish	5,340		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in			
Spanish	3,440		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in			
Spanish	510		
Tegucigalpa Radio America in			
Spanish	15,560		
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in			
Spanish			1,940
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in			
Spanish			2,630
San Pedro SULA LA PRENSA in			
Spanish			830
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in			
Spanish			6,710



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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>MEXICO</b>			
*Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,450		
*Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4,500		
*Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		170	
*Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		210	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			6,930
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			1,020
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			2,380
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			230
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			340
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			2,430
Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish			110
<b>NICARAGUA</b>			
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	14,580		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	5,210		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	9,480		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	19,620		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	2,100		
Managua International Service in Spanish	1,110		
*Managua ANN in Spanish		7,300	
*Managua PRELA in Spanish		500	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			7,150
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			1,260
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			8,640
<b>PANAMA</b>			
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	5,620		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	2,710		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	4,940		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		13,340	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			850
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			6,120
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			10,090
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2,430
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			5,190
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1,080
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			1,180
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			1,460
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			360
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			1,340
SPAIN			
*Madrid EFE in Spanish		23,720	
*Madrid PRELA in Spanish		680	
USSR			
*Moscow TASS in Spanish		1,940	
*Moscow APN in Spanish		830	
*Moscow NOVOSTI in Spanish		1,420	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	1,400		
*Caracas Television Service in Spanish	18,950		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			2,950
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			160
* See Annex			

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MARCH 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

<b>COLOMBIA</b>	
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	1,510
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	
San Jose PRELA in Spanish	430
<b>CUBA</b>	
Havana PRELA in Spanish	27,380
<b>GERMANY</b>	
East Berlin ADN to Managua in Spanish	140
<b>MEXICO</b>	
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	4,500
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,450
Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	210
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	170
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	
Managua ANN in Span	7,300
Managua PRELA in Spanish	500
<b>SPAIN</b>	
Madrid EFE in Spanish	170
Madrid PRELA in Spanish	680
<b>USSR</b>	
Moscow TASS in Spanish	1,940
Moscow APN in Spanish	830
Moscow NOVOSTI in Spanish	1,420
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	18,490

TOTAL for MARCH 1985

69,120